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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,503	07/29/2003	David M. Mitteer	GRA01 P-418	6730
277 7590 04/16/2007 PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON, LLP 695 KENMOOR, S.E. P O BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501			EXAMINER KRAUSE, JUSTIN MITCHELL	
			ART UNIT 3682	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/16/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/629,503	MITTEER, DAVID M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Justin Krause	3682	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Justin Krause. (3) Daniel Girdwood.
 (2) Thomas Hannon. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 12 April 2007.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: Proposed claims as attached.


Identification of prior art discussed: Hiramato, Muramatsu, Osborn.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.


Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


 Thomas R. Hannon
 Primary Examiner

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant proposed amendments to the claims after final, regarding the phrase "wherein the knob is palm-sized and configured to receive a user's hand" in claim 26, as rejected, it was recommended by the examiner to remove the phrase from the claims, which overcomes the 112-1st paragraph rejection. Applicant's proposed amendments were discussed, and deemed to require further search and consideration since they raise issues not previously considered. Applicant noted an error within the proposal, the use of the term "straw" was not supported by the specification and any subsequent amendments would use the term --inner member-- referring to element 39 in the drawings.

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TO: EXAMINER JUSTIN KRAUS

FX 571-273-3012

FROM: DANIEL GIRDWOOD

PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR SN 10/629,503

TO FACILITATE INTERVIEW APRIL 12, 2007

PROPOSAL A - Claim 26. (currently amended) A shift mechanism, comprising:

a base;
a shift gate having a plurality of notches defining gear positions;
a shift lever movably mounted to the base;
a pawl configured to move between an engaged position, wherein the pawl engages the shift gate and restricts movement of the shift lever, and a disengaged position;
a button on the shift lever operably connected to the pawl such that pushing of the button moves the pawl from the engaged position to the disengaged position; and
a pneumatic mechanism providing a first resistance against movement of the pawl in a first direction from the engaged position to the disengaged position, and providing a second resistance against movement of the pawl in a second direction from the disengaged position to the engaged position, the second resistance being greater than the first;

[The shifter mechanism of claim 1,]

wherein the shifter lever includes a structural tubular member that operably supports the pawl and a knob on the tubular member that operably supports the button, and wherein the knob is [palm-sized and configured] shaped to receive a user's hand, and further wherein the pneumatic mechanism is positioned within at least one of the structural tubular member and the knob;

the pneumatic mechanism including a cylindrical chamber and a mating plunger, one of the chamber and plunger being formed of a same material as, and as an integral part of, the button.

PROPOSAL B - Claim 26. (currently amended) A shift mechanism, comprising:

a base;

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a shift gate having a plurality of notches defining gear positions;
a shift lever movably mounted to the base;
a pawl configured to move between an engaged position, wherein the pawl engages the shift gate and restricts movement of the shift lever, and a disengaged position;
a button on the shift lever operably connected to the pawl such that pushing of the button moves the pawl from the engaged position to the disengaged position; and
a pneumatic mechanism providing a first resistance against movement of the pawl in a first direction from the engaged position to the disengaged position, and providing a second resistance against movement of the pawl in a second direction from the disengaged position to the engaged position, the second resistance being greater than the first;

[The shifter mechanism of claim 1,]

wherein the shifter lever includes a structural tubular member that operably supports the pawl and a knob on the tubular member that operably supports the button, and wherein the knob is [palm-sized and configured] shaped to receive a user's hand, and further wherein the pneumatic mechanism is positioned within at least one of the structural tubular member and the knob;

the pneumatic mechanism including a cylindrical chamber and a mating plunger, the chamber and plunger being formed as integral parts of the knob and button.

PROPOSAL C - Claim 26. (currently amended) A shift mechanism, comprising:

a base;
a shift gate having a plurality of notches defining gear positions;
a shift lever movably mounted to the base;
a pawl configured to move between an engaged position, wherein the pawl engages the shift gate and restricts movement of the shift lever, and a disengaged position;
a button on the shift lever operably connected to the pawl such that pushing of the button moves the pawl from the engaged position to the disengaged position; and
a pneumatic mechanism providing a first resistance against movement of the pawl in a first direction from the engaged position to the disengaged position, and providing a second

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resistance against movement of the pawl in a second direction from the disengaged position to the engaged position, the second resistance being greater than the first;

[The shifter mechanism of claim 1,]

wherein the shifter lever includes a structural tubular member that operably supports the pawl and a knob on the tubular member that operably supports the button, and wherein the knob is [palm-sized and configured] shaped to receive a user's hand, and further wherein the pneumatic mechanism is positioned within at least one of the structural tubular member and the knob;

the pneumatic mechanism including a cylindrical chamber, a mating plunger, and a sealing member; the sealing member slidably engaging the plunger for movement in a direction perpendicular to movement of the shift lever.

PROPOSAL D - Claim 26. (currently amended) A shift mechanism, comprising:

a base;

a shift gate having a plurality of notches defining gear positions;

a shift lever movably mounted to the base;

a pawl configured to move between an engaged position, wherein the pawl engages the shift gate and restricts movement of the shift lever, and a disengaged position;

a button on the shift lever operably connected to the pawl such that pushing of the button moves the pawl from the engaged position to the disengaged position; and

a pneumatic mechanism providing a first resistance against movement of the pawl in a first direction from the engaged position to the disengaged position, and providing a second resistance against movement of the pawl in a second direction from the disengaged position to the engaged position, the second resistance being greater than the first;

[The shifter mechanism of claim 1,]

wherein the shifter lever includes a structural tubular member that operably supports the pawl and a knob on the tubular member that operably supports the button, and [wherein the knob is palm-sized and configured to receive a user's hand, and further] wherein the pneumatic mechanism is positioned within at least one of the structural tubular member and the knob;

a straw positioned in the structural tubular member, the pneumatic mechanism

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including a cylindrical chamber and a mating plunger, one of the chamber and plunger being formed of a same material as, and as an integral part of, the straw.

PROPOSAL E - Claim 26. (currently amended) A shift mechanism, comprising:

a base;
a shift gate having a plurality of notches defining gear positions;
a shift lever movably mounted to the base;
a pawl configured to move between an engaged position, wherein the pawl engages the shift gate and restricts movement of the shift lever, and a disengaged position;
a button on the shift lever operably connected to the pawl such that pushing of the button moves the pawl from the engaged position to the disengaged position; and
a pneumatic mechanism providing a first resistance against movement of the pawl in a first direction from the engaged position to the disengaged position, and providing a second resistance against movement of the pawl in a second direction from the disengaged position to the engaged position, the second resistance being greater than the first;

[The shifter mechanism of claim 1,]

wherein the shifter lever includes a structural tubular member that operably supports the pawl and a knob on the tubular member that operably supports the button, and wherein the knob is [palm-sized and configured] shaped to receive a user's hand, and further wherein the pneumatic mechanism is positioned within at least one of the structural tubular member and the knob;

a straw positioned in the structural tubular member, the pneumatic mechanism including a cylindrical chamber and a mating plunger, the chamber and plunger being formed as integral parts of the tubular member and straw.

PROPOSAL F - Claim 26. (currently amended) A shift mechanism, comprising:

a base;
a shift gate having a plurality of notches defining gear positions;
a shift lever movably mounted to the base;

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a pawl configured to move between an engaged position, wherein the pawl engages the shift gate and restricts movement of the shift lever, and a disengaged position;

a button on the shift lever operably connected to the pawl such that pushing of the button moves the pawl from the engaged position to the disengaged position; and

a pneumatic mechanism providing a first resistance against movement of the pawl in a first direction from the engaged position to the disengaged position, and providing a second resistance against movement of the pawl in a second direction from the disengaged position to the engaged position, the second resistance being greater than the first;

[The shifter mechanism of claim 1,]

wherein the shifter lever includes a structural tubular member that operably supports the pawl and a knob on the tubular member that operably supports the button, and wherein the knob is [palm-sized and configured] shaped to receive a user's hand, and further wherein the pneumatic mechanism is positioned within at least one of the structural tubular member and the knob;

a straw positioned in the structural tubular member, the pneumatic mechanism being attached to the straw and including a cylindrical chamber, a mating plunger, and a sealing member; the sealing member slidably engaging the plunger for movement in a direction perpendicular to movement of the shift lever.

27. (new) The shift mechanism defined in claim 26, wherein the plunger is attached to a bottom end of the straw.